ABSTRACT

A virtual concatenation method for optical channels in WDM networks is described. In transmission, the method comprises the steps of: providing for a plurality of frames, each frame comprising a byte reserved for a concatenation flag; writing the same predefined value in the concatenation byte of n frames (n= 1, 2, 3, ...); and transmitting the n frames via n respective channels (λ_1, λ_2, ... λ_n). In reception, it comprises the steps of: receiving the first reference frame at one instant; reading the concatenation byte value of said reference frame; receiving the remaining signal frames after a respective determined time; reading the value of the concatenation byte of the remaining signal frames; and identifying and aligning all the signal frames with the same concatenation byte value compensating the reception times. (fig. 3).